

**ABSTRACT**

An extensible method and system for obtaining an historical record of data backup activity (and errors) from a plurality of data backup software devices, and converting the same into a canonical format, is disclosed. In the first aspect, a method comprises the steps of providing a late-binding mechanism that provides the invention with extensibility so that it can be made to inter-operate with an arbitrary variety of backup software devices. In the second aspect, an interface for requesting and returning a canonical backup activity log is disclosed. In the third aspect, an interface for requesting and returning a canonical backup error log is disclosed. In the fourth aspect, the use of a canonical format enables the data to be cross-referenced, consolidated and compared.

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